

State Representative

Craig R. Fry



Representing St. Joseph and Elkhart counties

How To Reach
Representative

Craig R. Fry

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Dear Friends,

The One Hundred and Eleventh Indiana General Assembly has had many accomplishments, including more than \$974 million in tax cuts, a plan to distribute more than \$4 billion that Indiana will receive from the national tobacco settlement, and increases in funding for public schools and the CHOICE home health care program.

I have detailed several of those items in this newsletter along with providing a breakdown of the various Build Indiana projects and the additional funding for roads in our district.

This will be my last official newsletter until after the November election. However, I am still available to assist with problems, concerns or questions with state government. Please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842 if you need assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig".

Building District 5

ROAD FUNDING

**Additional \$200 million
will help build and
repair local roads**

TAX CUTS

\$974 million in tax cuts

BUILD INDIANA FUNDS

**Lottery profits help
communities with
special projects**

*** DETAILS INSIDE ***

ROAD FUNDING

We approved an additional \$200 million to build and repair local roads in last year's state budget. Our area received over \$10 million in additional funding. I have also listed several other INDOT transportation projects in our area.

INDOT ROAD PROJECTS

State Road 23

--Widened road in University Park Mall area

Union Street

--Resurfacing from the Bypass to 13th Street

Old Capital Avenue

--Widening and resurfacing from US 20 Bypass to Lincolnway Easy

Capital Avenue Expressway

Douglas to Day Road

Spring 2001 Start

Capital Avenue Expressway

Day to Jefferson Road

Fall 2001 Start

State Road 19

--Widened US 20 Bypass to Mishawaka Road

--New lanes and lights at intersection

Tax cuts benefit families



Rep. Fry discusses legislation with Rep. Mike Dvorak.

Homeowners and Renters

- Property taxes on a principal place of residence can be deducted up to \$2,500.
- The renters' income tax deduction was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000.
- The county welfare funds and the county welfare administration funds were eliminated from local property taxes.

Families and children

- The income tax deduction was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under 24.
- A new \$100,000 inheritance tax deduction has been provided for each "Class A" beneficiary, which includes a child, parent, grandchild or grandparent.

Senior Citizens

- The income tax deduction for most seniors was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each qualified taxpayer may take this deduction — meaning married senior couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income.
- Many seniors also received an increase in the property tax deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The basic eligibility qualifications have been expanded to include more senior citizens but there are some limitations.
- The legislature also established a new state income tax deduction for the amount of long-term health care insurance premiums.

Prescription drugs for seniors

Senior citizens on lower incomes should not have to choose between buying food or the prescription drugs they need to remain healthy. Thanks to the legislation allocating money from the national tobacco settlement, they won't have to make that decision.

The final bill includes \$20 million to help senior citizens on lower incomes purchase prescription drugs. From my visits around the district, this is one of the most pressing concerns among older Hoosiers.

Since health care was one of the priorities for spending tobacco settlement funds, I believe it was important to help seniors get the drugs they need to avoid their illnesses.

Indiana will receive more than \$4 billion from the national tobacco settlement over the next 25 years.

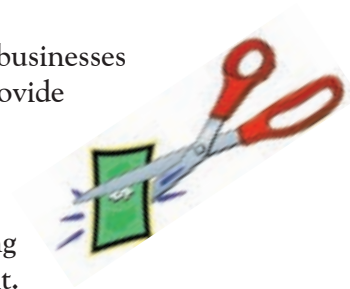
In the first year alone, \$35 million will be dedicated toward health care programs, with an emphasis on tobacco education and prevention. Community health centers will receive \$15 million in program support, along with a one-time-only appropriation of \$10 million to make physical improvements to facilities.

Inventory tax cuts total almost \$210 million

- We eliminated inventory taxes for nearly 90 percent of the businesses and farms in Indiana by enacting inventory tax cuts which will provide relief for farm and small business owners across the state.

- The plan provides a credit for property taxes paid on the first \$12,500 of assessed valuation on personal property, including inventory, mobile homes, and farm and manufacturing equipment.

- It is estimated that the total savings will amount to more than \$210 million in 2000 and 2001.



BUILD INDIANA PROJECTS DISTRICT 5

Since 1989, \$229.9 million has been distributed statewide from lottery profits for Build Indiana Projects. The organizations and projects listed benefitted from grants in the 1999-2000 biennial budget.

Mishawaka Sidewalks, Curbs, Sewers and Intersection Improvements

St. Joseph County Penn Township North VFD Safety Equipment

St. Joseph County Penn Township South VFD Safety Equipment

Osceola Road Repairs

Osceola VFD Safety Equipment

Elkhart - Ullery Homeownership District Infrastructure

Family Services of Elkhart County Women's Shelter

Elkhart Chapter of the Indiana Black Expo

Elkhart County Baugo Township VFD Safety Equipment

Hoosier Healthwise

Hoosier Healthwise offers health care to children, pregnant women and low-income working families. Each child has a personal doctor -- known as a Primary Medical Provider or PMP. Each child's doctor works with the parent to plan for all of the health care needs of the child, including routine check-ups, immunizations, screenings, diagnoses and treatment. Hoosier Healthwise also offers access to dental care.

Families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (equal to about \$34,000 for a family of four) may qualify for Hoosier Healthwise. To find out if you qualify, contact Hoosier Healthwise at 1-800-889-9949.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was created as part of the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Congress created CHIP as a way to encourage states to provide health insurance to uninsured children. In 1998, Indiana enacted legislation creating the Hoosier Healthwise program for children. More than 115,000 children have been added to the program since 1998. This sizable addition resulted in Indiana having the largest Medicaid enrollment increase of any state.

Hoosier Healthwise Helpline 1-800-889-9949.

How to apply

1. Have an application mailed to you by calling 1-800-889-9949.
2. Fill out and sign the application.
3. Turn in the application by mailing it, taking it to an enrollment center or taking it to your local office of the Division of Family and Children.
4. Once your application is reviewed, you will receive a packet of information on the program and be assigned a Benefit Advocate.



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Call the Statehouse toll-free

1-800-382-9842

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